



“Feria Multicultural” celebrates Aruba’s ethnic diversity

To paraphrase the motto of the Indian Association of Aruba, there is “Unity in Diversity,” and that is a perfect description of Aruba. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the East Indian community is only one of the seventy-nine nationalities and ethnic groups that cohabit peacefully on the island of Aruba. On Saturday evening, October 21, “Unity in Diversity” was very evident during the Multicultural Fair conducted in the Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad. Conducted by the Ministry of Culture, it was a gala celebration of all the various nations and peoples that have made Aruba their home. The display of crafts, cuisine, and native costumes show why Aruba could certainly be considered the “Melting Pot of the Caribbean.”

Many who have immigrated to the island wore the characteristic native dress of their various countries. Booths offered a variety of delectable dishes, from *roti* from Suriname, to *latkes* from Israel, and various dishes and crafts from Peru, Argentina, China, Indonesia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Curacao, Portugal, to name a few, and the list goes on.

The Plaza Betico Croes was packed with island residents and visitors that were treated to not only the fascinating and informative displays in the booths, but also a diverse parade of entertainment that provided a lively demonstration of the cultures and scenery of the home countries. Amongst the various performances was the famous “Dragon Dance” by the Chinese community, that traditionally greets the New Year, and other special occasions. A number of film presentations that showcased faraway places whose people now live in Aruba, captivated the throng. To judge by the ambiance and attendance, there is no doubt that the Feria Multicultural, which entertained and enlightened, was a resounding success!